



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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MARVIN J. SOUTHARD, D.S.W.
Director

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Medical Director

April 10, 2014

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director 

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO A SOLE
SOURCE CONTRACT WITH MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY
SERVICES, INC.**

This memorandum is to comply with the Board Policy Manual, Section 5.100, Sole Source Contract, by notifying the Board of our need to initiate a sole source contract. It is the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's (DMH) intent to enter into a sole source Agreement with Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc. (MHAS), located at 3255 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 902, Los Angeles, CA 90010.

On January 28, 2014, DMH along with four (4) other County departments (Health Services, Public Health, Public Social Services, and Sheriff) received a total of \$7 million in grant funding from the California Department of Health Care Services to provide Medi-Cal outreach and enrollment services to uninsured individuals in support of the State's desire to augment the number of Medi-Cal enrollments among the newly-eligible hard-to-reach populations affected by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). As per guidelines issued by the State, this two-year grant covering the period of February 1, 2014, to June 30, 2016, is a time-sensitive project that requires its awardees to respond rapidly upon receipt of the grant funds by initiating the required deliverables immediately. Due to the time constraint imposed by the State for implementation of this grant, DMH finds it necessary to utilize contractors that have demonstrated the expertise and capacity to initiate the required services in a timely fashion as the immediate commencement of services to be provided under this grant will ensure the maximum possible draw-down of grant funding, and thus ensure the maximum possible amount of services will reach the target populations. The time required for DMH to conduct a competitive solicitation before awarding contracts for these services would consume an excessive portion of the grant term. Accordingly, the award of contracts to qualified contractors on a sole source basis will maximize the value of services to be provided under the grant and is therefore in the best interest of the County.

MHAS is the incumbent and one of the two benefits establishment providers evaluated and deemed qualified by DMH during a recent competitive solicitation that served to

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identify qualified entities for the provision of Medi-Cal, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits establishment services.

Since the acquisition of its first Agreement with DMH in 1997, MHAS has provided benefits establishment services to a high number of uninsured clients with various challenging disabilities. In particular, MHAS has a program dedicated to assist DMH clients with severe and persistent mental illness with applying for and maintaining SSI, SSDI, and Medi-Cal benefits. This unique program has assisted an average of six hundred (600) DMH clients annually in the past 17 years. MHAS clearly has the demonstrated experience and the necessary knowledge to deliver the required services stipulated by this State grant recently awarded to Los Angeles County.

This proposed sole source Agreement with MHAS will be funded fully by the State Medi-Cal Outreach and Enrollment grant. The term of the sole source Agreement is for Fiscal Years 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Unless otherwise instructed by a Board office within two weeks, DMH will proceed with negotiating this sole source Agreement. DMH will work closely with both County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office in preparing this new Agreement with Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, or your staff my contact Richard Kushi, Chief, Contracts Development and Administration Division, at (213) 738-4684.

MJS:RK:LW:SK:gdt

c: Mental Health Deputies
 Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
 Chief Executive Officer
 County Counsel
 Robin Kay, Ph.D.
 Margo Morales
 Dennis Murata
 Lisa Wicker
 Richard Kushi